

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 034987
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:EBEIGEL
APPROVED BY EUR:AAHARTMAN
S/S:AWOTTO

-----160230Z 056666 /64

O 160210Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034987

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UK, FR, ECON

SUBJECT: CONCORDE

1. ACTING SECRETARY ADVISED FRENCH AND BRITISH AMBASSADORS LATE THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE PRESIDENT THIS EVENING IS SENDING MESSAGES TO CALLAGHAN AND GISCARD IN RESPONSE TO RECENT APPEALS SENT TO HIM BY BOTH REGARDING CONCORDE LANDINGS AT NEW YORK. SUBSTANCE OF THE IDENTICAL MESSAGES WILL BE MADE KNOWN TO THE PRESS BY THE WHITE HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY, IF TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE NO OBJECTIONS.

2. HARTMAN POINTED OUT THAT RESPONSE TO FRENCH AND BRITISH APPEALS HAD BEEN DECIDED BY THE PRESIDENT ONLY AFTER SOME DEBATE ON THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS. PRESIDENT TOOK THE DECISION BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO TRYING, TO THE EXTENT HE CAN, TO MEET THE DESIRES OF CALLAGHAN AND GISCARD. WE ANTICIPATE
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SOME PUBLIC CRITICISM HERE AND WE ARE PREPARED TO DEFEND THE DECISION. WE HOPE THAT THE RESPONSES FROM THE PRESIDENT WILL BE VIEWED IN LIGHT OF THE SERIOUS ATTENTION HE HAS GIVEN TO THE MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM BOTH LONDON AND PARIS.

3. HARTMAN EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT BRITISH AND FRENCH

GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER LAWSUIT IN COURSE IN

FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT IS BEST WAY TO FACILITATE THE
PROCESS. BOTH AMBASSADORS SAID THEY WILL BE ADVISING THEIR
GOVERNMENTS TONIGHT ON THAT PROCEDURAL QUESTION.

4. COURTESY COPIES OF PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSE TO GISCARD
AND CALLAGHAN WERE HANDED BOTH AMBASSADORS. TEXT IS AS
FOLLOWS FOR YOUR INFORMATION: QUOTE. I HAVE CONSIDERED
CAREFULLY YOUR VIEWS CONCERNING THE LANDING OF CONCORDE
AT TWO AIRPORTS IN OUR COUNTRY FOR A TRIAL PERIOD OF
SIXTEEN MONTHS. I SHARE YOUR DESIRE TO APPROACH THIS
MATTER IN A WAY THAT REFLECTS THE CLOSE FRIENDSHIP
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. AS YOU KNOW, I CANNOT DIRECT
THE PORT OF NEW YORK AUTHORITY OR THE GOVERNOR OF NEW
YORK TO REACH A PARTICULAR DECISION THAT IS THEIRS ALONE TO
DECIDE. HOWEVER, THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL REAFFIRM THE
16-MONTH TRIAL PERIOD FOR CONCORDE LANDINGS AS PROPOSED IN
THE DECISION OF FORMER SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION COLEMAN.
THIS POSITION, OF COURSE, DOES NOT PREJUDICE THE OUTCOME
OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S LATER DECISION ON WHETHER
CONCORDE SHOULD BE GIVEN PERMANENT PERMISSION TO LAND
AT U.S. AIRPORTS. I HOPE THAT THIS ACTION WILL BE A BASIS
FOR REAFFIRMING THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES,
AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO MEET PROBLEMS THAT WE FACE IN
COMMON. UNQUOTE. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD HAVE
PREFERRED MESSAGE WITHOUT THIRD SENTENCE BUT HIS BRITISH
COLLEAGUE SAID UKG WOULD BE PLEASED WITH MESSAGE.
HARTMAN
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